

# VU Research Portal

## Gender at energy economics

Tol, Richard S.J.

### **published in**

Energy Economics  
2018

### **DOI (link to publisher)**

[10.1016/j.eneco.2018.04.029](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.eneco.2018.04.029)

### **document version**

Publisher's PDF, also known as Version of record

### **document license**

Article 25fa Dutch Copyright Act

[Link to publication in VU Research Portal](#)

### **citation for published version (APA)**

Tol, R. S. J. (2018). Gender at energy economics. *Energy Economics*, 72, 558-559.  
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.eneco.2018.04.029>

### **General rights**

Copyright and moral rights for the publications made accessible in the public portal are retained by the authors and/or other copyright owners and it is a condition of accessing publications that users recognise and abide by the legal requirements associated with these rights.

- Users may download and print one copy of any publication from the public portal for the purpose of private study or research.
- You may not further distribute the material or use it for any profit-making activity or commercial gain
- You may freely distribute the URL identifying the publication in the public portal ?

### **Take down policy**

If you believe that this document breaches copyright please contact us providing details, and we will remove access to the work immediately and investigate your claim.

### **E-mail address:**

[vuresearchportal.ub@vu.nl](mailto:vuresearchportal.ub@vu.nl)



## Editorial

## Gender at energy economics



The gender ratio in economics has always been skewed towards men. Progress towards a more even balance seems to have stopped around the turn of the century.<sup>1</sup> As a field, energy economics, with 16.7% women, does slightly worse than economics as a whole (19.1% female).<sup>2</sup> There are many causes for this (Dyner and Rouse 1997; Emerson et al. 2018; Bayer and Rouse 2016; CSWEP 2000). An end to negative discrimination, if any, is part of the portfolio of solutions.

Journal editors play a role there. Erin Hengel shows that, in four of the Top 5 journals of economics, articles written by women are better readable, apparently because they face tougher reviews. In *Econometrica*, the review process takes longer for women.<sup>3</sup> That should not be.

In preparation for its Gender Report,<sup>4</sup> Elsevier has developed gender-recognition tools and applied them to journal archives. The

data will become publicly available through *ScienceDirect*, *Scopus* and other services at a later date. Journal editors have privileged access.

The data cover 7569 submissions to *Energy Economics* between April 2005 and September 2017. For 6076 submissions, the gender of the corresponding author was identifiable from the first name. Other data include the country of affiliation, final decision, number of invited and submitted reviews and reviewers, number of revisions, and time to first and final decision.

There is no statistically significant difference between men and women on the fraction of refusing referees, on the number of revisions, or on the time to first and final decision. On these indicators, women are treated slightly more favourably. See Table 1. The number of invited referees and the number of referees who complete a report are slightly but significantly higher for men.

**Table 1**  
Selected characteristics for male and female corresponding authors: Time to first and final decision; number of revisions, reviews, invited referees, and referees who submitted one of more reports; and the ratio between the number of invited and responsive referees. Standard errors are given between brackets.

	Time to decision		Number of				Ratio
	First	Final	Revisions	Reviews	Invites	Complete	
Male	101.8 (2)	160.1 (3)	1.52 (0.01)	1.63 (0.02)	2.51 (0.03)	1.28 (0.02)	1.40 (0.02)
Female	94.3 (3)	157.5 (6)	1.50 (0.02)	1.56 (0.04)	2.34 (0.06)	1.20 (0.03)	1.33 (0.04)
Diff.	7.5 (3.9)	2.7 (6.4)	0.02 (0.03)	0.07 (0.05)	0.17 (0.07)	0.08 (0.03)	0.07 (0.05)

**Table 2**  
Final decision by gender.

	Number			Share		
	Accept	Reject	Desk	Accept	Reject	Desk
Male	1358	1584	1535	30.3%	35.4%	34.3%
Female	369	458	501	27.8%	34.5%	37.7%
Gender known	1727	2042	2036	29.8%	35.2%	35.1%
All	2274	2468	2520	31.3%	34.0%	34.7%

<sup>1</sup> See <https://ideas.repec.org/top/female.html#cohort>.

<sup>2</sup> See <https://ideas.repec.org/top/female.html#field>.

<sup>3</sup> See <https://voxeu.org/article/evidence-peer-review-women-are-held-higher-standards>.

<sup>4</sup> See <https://www.elsevier.com/research-intelligence/resource-library/gender-report>.

Three decisions are recorded: acceptance, rejection after review, and desk rejection. Table 2 shows the percentages for all submissions, all submissions with known gender, men and women. Women do worse ( $\chi^2 = 5.92$ ,  $p = 0.052$ ). However, there are stark differences between

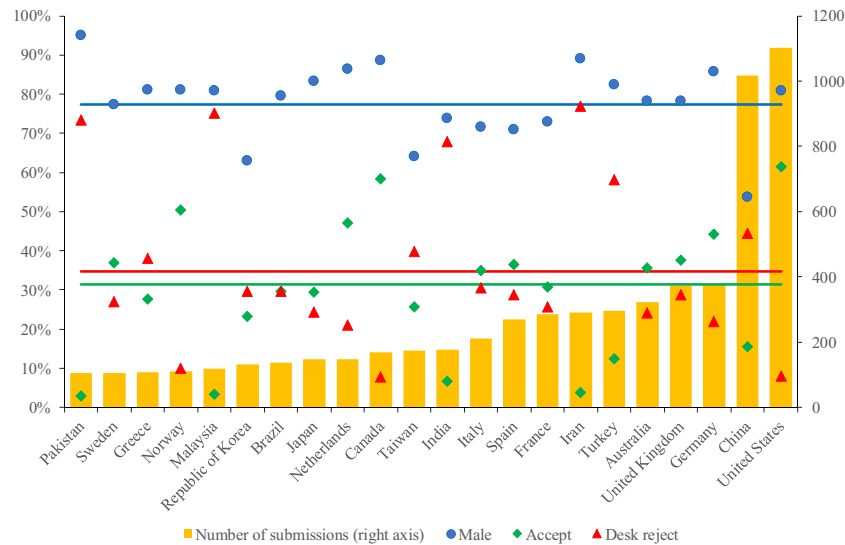


Fig. 1. Number of submission, male fraction of corresponding authors, acceptance rate and desk rejection rate for 22 countries. The lines show the global average.

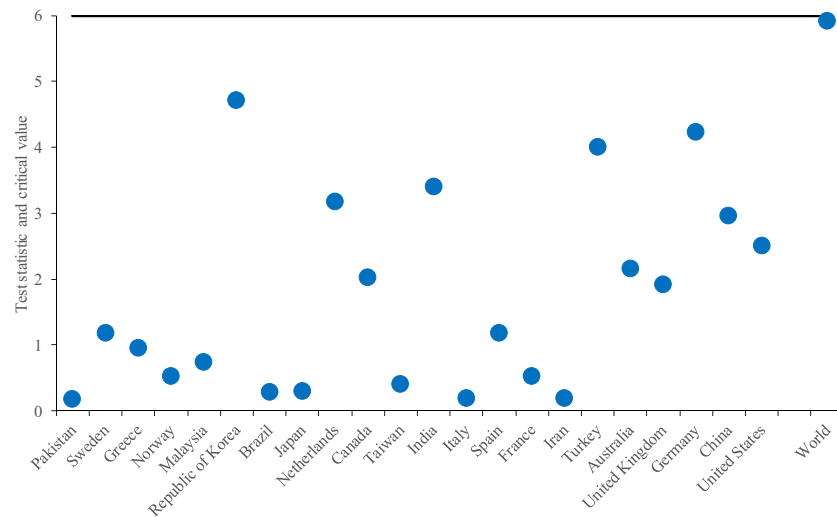


Fig. 2. Test statistic for the equality between men and women of the proportion of final decision for 22 countries and the world. The solid line shows the 5% critical value.

countries on both gender ratio and rejection rate. See Fig. 1 for the 22 countries with more than 100 submissions. Fig. 2 shows the test results for the equality between men and women of proportions of decisions. The null hypothesis of equal treatment of men and women cannot be rejected for any country. Three countries—South Korea, Taiwan and China—have a high rejection rate and a high fraction of authors recorded as female.

Energy Economics does not confirm the pattern found by Erin Hengel. This is good news, but no ground for complacency.

## References

- Bayer, Amanda, Rouse, Cecilia Elena, 2016. Diversity in the economics profession: a new attack on an old problem. *J. Econ. Perspect.* 30 (4):221–242. <https://doi.org/10.1257/jep.30.4.221>.
- CSWEP, 2000. Report of the committee on the status of women in the economics profession. *Am. Econ. Rev.* 90 (2), 521.
- Dynan, Karen E., Rouse, Cecilia Elena, 1997. The underrepresentation of women in economics: a study of undergraduate economics students. *J. Econ. Educ.* 28 (4): 350–368. <https://doi.org/10.1080/00220489709597939>.

Emerson, Tisha L.N., McGoldrick, KimMarie, Siegfried, John J., 2018. The gender gap in economics degrees: an investigation of the role model and quantitative requirements hypotheses. *South. Econ. J.* 84 (3):898–911. <https://doi.org/10.1002/soej.12247>.

Richard S.J. Tol

Department of Economics, University of Sussex, Falmer BN1 9SL, UK  
Institute of Environmental Studies, Vrije Universiteit, Amsterdam,

The Netherlands

Department of Spatial Economics, Vrije Universiteit, Amsterdam,  
The Netherlands

Tinbergen Institute, Amsterdam, The Netherlands

CESifo, Munich, Germany

Payne Institute for Earth Resources, Colorado School of Mines, Golden,  
CO, USA

E-mail address: [r.tol@sussex.ac.uk](mailto:r.tol@sussex.ac.uk).

18 April 2018